GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2782
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Criteria for Universities
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has amended any criteria to set up and regulate the Universities in the country.
(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of Universities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) to (c): Universities are established either by an Act of Parliament or by an Act of the State Legislatures concerned. The University Grants Commission (UGC), being a regulator, takes steps for the promotion and coordination of university education and for the determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in universities. UGC regulates the functioning of the Universities with the help of its Expert Committees in the following manner:
? inspections are conducted to verify the infrastructure and other facilities available with the State Universities to include them in the list of Universities under Section 12 B of the UGC Act, 1956.
? the status of Institutions Deemed to be Universities are reviewed and assessed as per the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.
? inspections of Private Universities are carried out in consonance with the provision of the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 to assess whether they are fulfilling the minimum criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc., as laid down from time to time by the UGC and other concerned statutory bodies/councils.
The reports of the UGC Expert Committees on the functioning of the universities are forwarded to the university concerned to rectify the deficiencies, if any, and to implement, suggestions of such Committees. Universities are also requested to submit compliance report to UGC alongwith supporting documents.
Further, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), through a team of experts (peer team), assesses the performance and accredits Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) including Universities by following a seven criterion framework. The universities are accredited with a grade keeping in view their performance scores calculated on Curricular Aspects; Teaching-Learning and Evaluation; Research, Consultancy and Extension; Infrastructure and Learning Resources; Student Support and Progression; Governance, Leadership and Management; Innovations and Best Practices.
Further, to encourage quality assurance in higher education, the UGC has directed all Universities to establish Internal Quality Assurance Cells (IQACs) for which one-time financial assistance is provided by it under the XII Plan. The NAAC also provides financial assistance to IQACs of HEIs including Universities to conduct seminars/conferences on the themes related to quality assurance.
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